

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

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FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7055

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENTIANE 2297

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PDIP PFOR LA US

SUBJECT: U.S. CHRISTMAS CARDS AND NATIONAL DAY MESSAGES TO LPDR  
LEADERS

REF A STATE 006811, B VIENTIANE 1600, C STATE 168287,  
D STATE 168397

1. AS REQUESTED REF A, RECOMMEND THAT THE PRESIDENT'S  
CHRISTMAS CARDS THIS YEAR BE ADDRESSED TO PRESIDENT  
SOUPHANOUVONG, CHIEF OF STATE, AND PRIME MINISTER  
KAYSONE PHOMVIHANE, CHIEF OF GOVERNMENT, THAT THE  
SECRETARY'S CARD BE SENT TO PHOUNE SIPRASEUTH, DEPUTY  
PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, AND  
THAT DEPUTY SECRETARY'S CARD BE SENT TO KHAMPHAY BOUPHA,  
SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS, WHO RANKS NEXT  
AFTER PHOUNE.

2. ALSO RECOMMEND THAT FOR LAO NATIONAL DAY,  
DECEMBER 2, THE PRESIDENT SEND A CONGRATULATORY MESSAGE  
TO PRESIDENT SOUPHANOUVONG AND SECRETARY SEND A MESSAGE  
TO FOREIGN MINISTER PHOUNE SIPRASEUTH. SOUPHANOUVONG  
SENT MESSAGE TO PRESIDENT AND PHOUNE SENT ONE TO  
SECRETARY ON OUR NATIONAL DAY. DO NOT REPEAT NOT  
RECOMMEND THAT PRESIDENT SEND MESSAGE TO PRIME MINISTER  
KAYSONE SINCE KAYSONE DID NOT SEND ONE TO PRESIDENT ON  
JULY 4. AS BOTH PARTY SECRETARY GENERAL AND PRIME  
MINISTER, HOWEVER, KAYSONE JOINED SOUPHANOUVONG IN  
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SENDING NATIONAL DAY CONGRATULATORY MESSAGE SEPTEMBER

8 TO BULGARIAN PARTY FIRST SECRETARY, PRESIDENT NATIONAL ASSEMBLY, AND PRIME MINISTER. SIMILARLY ON SEPTEMBER 9, KAYSONE AND SOUPHANOUVONG SENT NATIONAL DAY CONGRATULATIONS TO DPRK PARTY SECRETARY GENERAL AND PRIME MINISTER. HIS GREETINGS APPEAR TO BE RESERVED FOR OTHER COMMUNIST COUNTRIES.

3. GIVEN THE PRESENT STATE OF U.S.-LAO RELATIONS, I RECOMMEND THAT THE TEXT OF PRESIDENT'S AND SECRETARY'S MESSAGES BE NO MORE EFFUSIVE THAN LAO MESSAGES ON OUR NATIONAL DAY (REF B) OR OUR RESPONSES TO THOSE MESSAGES (REFS C AND D). RECOMMEND MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT TO SOUPHANOUVONG READ AS FOLLOWS:  
BEGIN TEXT: ON THE OCCASION OF THE NATIONAL DAY OF THE LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC PLEASE ACCEPT MY SINCERE CONGRATULATIONS. I EXTEND TO YOU MY BEST WISHES FOR THE HAPPINESS AND PROSPERITY OF THE LAO PEOPLE. MAY THE RELATIONS BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES DEVELOP IN THE INTERESTS OF PEACE AND THE WELL BEING OF OUR TWO PEOPLES. PLEASE ACCEPT, MR. PRESIDENT, THE ASSURANCES OF MY HIGHEST CONSIDERATION. END TEXT.

4. RECOMMEND SECRETARY'S MESSAGE TO DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND FOREIGN MINISTER PHOUNE SIPRASEUTH READ AS FOLLOWS:  
BEGIN TEXT: I HAVE THE HONOR TO ADDRESS TO YOU MY SINCERE CONGRATULATIONS ON THE OCCASION OF THE NATIONAL DAY OF YOUR COUNTRY. I HOPE THAT THE RELATIONS BETWEEN THE AMERICAN AND LAO PEOPLE WILL GROW STRONGER OVER TIME. PLEASE ACCEPT, MR. MINISTER, THE ASSURANCES OF MY HIGHEST CONSIDERATION. END TEXT.  
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